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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An elevator system, comprising:

a car;

a counterweight;

a load bearing member supporting the car and the counterweight such that the car moves in one direction and the counterweight moves in an opposite direction; and

a termination associated with at least one end of the load bearing member, at least a portion of the termination moving against a first bias of the termination responsive to a tension on the load bearing member that is below a selected threshold and moving against a second, passive bias of the termination responsive to a tension that exceeds the threshold.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the termination includes a terminating member and a support member and wherein the terminating member moves relative to the support member responsive to the tension below the threshold and wherein the support member moves with the terminating member when the tension exceeds the threshold.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, including a damper that resists movement of the support member and wherein the damper at least partially absorbs the tension.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the damper comprises at least one of a mechanical spring, an air spring or a pressurized actuator.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the damper is preloaded a selected amount such that the damper prevents movement of the support member when the tension on the load bearing member is less than the selected threshold.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the terminating member and the support member are moveable relative to a stationary surface and wherein the termination includes a tension member near an end of the terminating member that is distal from the load bearing member between the distal end and the support member, the tension member biasing the distal end away from the support member and a damper on an opposite side of the support member between the support member and the stationary surface, the damper biasing the support member away from the stationary surface.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the tension member comprises a spring and the damper comprises at least one of a mechanical spring, an air spring, a pneumatic actuator or a hydraulic actuator.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the support member comprises a plank and including a guide structure fixed relative to the stationary surface, the guide structure supports the plank such that the plank is moveable toward the stationary surface when the tension exceeds the threshold.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the termination is supported for movement with the car.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the termination is supported for movement with the counterweight.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, including a machine that causes selective movement of the car and wherein the termination is in a fixed position relative to the machine.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, including a first biasing member that provides the first bias and a second biasing member that provides the second bias and is located remote from the first biasing member.

13-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 16,~~ A hitch device for securing an end of a load bearing member in an elevator system, comprising:

a terminating member that is adapted to be secured to a load bearing member;

a support member associated with the terminating member;

a first biasing member acting against one side of the support member to bias one end of the terminating member away from the support member; and

a second, passive biasing member acting against an opposite side of the support member, the second biasing member being adapted to bias the support member away from a selected stationary surface;

a guide structure that guides the support member for selective movement against the bias of the second biasing member, the guide structure including a stationary surface against which the second biasing member acts such that the support member is selectively moveable relative to the guide structure, wherein the terminating member is moveable relative to the guide structure responsive to a first force that opposes the bias of the first biasing member and the support member is moveable with the terminating member against the bias of the second biasing member responsive to a second, greater force.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 13,~~ A hitch device for securing an end of a load bearing member in an elevator system, comprising:

a terminating member that is adapted to be secured to a load bearing member;

a support member associated with the terminating member;

a first biasing member acting against one side of the support member to bias one end of the terminating member away from the support member; and

a second, passive biasing member acting against an opposite side of the support member, the second biasing member being adapted to bias the support member away from a selected stationary surface wherein the first biasing member has a first stiffness and the second biasing member has a second, lower stiffness.

20. (Cancelled)